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Packing the Convention Bag

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Packing the Convention Bag

Whether you travel 3000 miles or 30, your wardrobe must be complete says Shirley Ambrose

A WARNING whistle from the 'Choo-choo', a tighter grasp on that bulging bag and students from campuses throughout the nation are off to summer conventions. Students may attend conventions for various reasons. Perhaps they are awarded as honors; they may be annual or biennial meetings of organizations or purely pleasure trips. But to every person in attendance, the clothes problem is an important one.

Conventions are fun but formal. The gay, care-free atmosphere of a college campus is forgotten for a few weeks in a series of inspection tours, dinners, trips and meetings. Formality may be the password but its twin is comfort.

Hats are as necessary as shoes, but they may take the form of casual turbans or loose, comfortable straws and felts. Fancy veils and flowers will only irritate the individuals doomed to a back seat.

After tramping the streets of a city for hours, no convention queen desires to return to the hotel and assume the role of a laundress in order to be prepared for the next day. Be sure that gloves and hose and lingerie are about the only part of the wardrobe that demand this attention. Gloves should be white and

In case business meetings do not fill all your convention hours you will want to be prepared for playtime with cool, comfortable but neat sportswear in serviceable material and attractive color.



washable. Hosiery should be plentiful. Perhaps the convention may be miles from the nearest apparel counter and that last precious pair of hose may go whoosh—zip. Borrowing from strangers is embarrassing as well as difficult.

A careful selection of two or three easily packed dresses and a lightweight coat will assure the coed that she will be appropriately attired. Silk shirt-waist dresses, georgettes and prints are the most popular at conventions. If dresses are cool and comfortable, the strain of being "dressed up" all the time may be eased. Summer opera, banquets or special meetings may demand formal evening wear. A dinner dress of the detachable jacket type is ideal, for it will apply to all occasions and occupies little space in the bag.

Three pairs of shoes, or even two, will answer the question of appropriate comfort. Saddles for play, oxfords for walking and spectators or sandals for evening. Add shoe trees, for footwear must keep in shape as well as the feet that wear them. Be sure they fit you as efficiently as they fit the occasion.

Souvenirs are a certain result. There is never space large enough in normal handbags to carry all the doo-dads that seem to accumulate in such a short time. Be prepared to carry the whole of the convention away in one of those new huge hand bags. This bag should be of a color which will cooperate with the rest of the wardrobe and should not be too light in color, for frequent handling will soil it.

Makeup is a public problem at conventions. No individual likes to stand around in corners and daub hurriedly with a tiny puff and tinier mirror. Choose flat, practical makeup, such as these new powders applied with damp sponges and liquid rouges that wash easily from the skin and yet are more lasting than the powder forms. Also lipstick tissues, available in handy as well as attractive form, are a necessity for re-makeup. They eliminate stained handkerchiefs as well as untidy bags.

If possible, collect all makeup in a waterproof bag for that special purpose. These pack into a corner of your larger bag and eliminate that last minute mad hunt in the hotel room for a misplaced comb before dashing to a meeting. Makeup bags come in various colors and designs and some are large enough to contain a pair of tightly folded pajamas, so buy one with the future in mind, as a possible overnight bag. One item that is a necessity is a housecoat or dressing gown of some type. A beach coat serves a double purpose if swimming is on the program.

The length of the convention will determine how many bags will be needed. If two are carried, add a light wrap for the formal, and a cape or lightweight wrap of waterproof material as a protection against sudden rains.

Sundays or the last day of convention may be set aside for relaxation, and here is a chance for a swim suit, hiking togs, playsuit, or riding habit. A detachable skirt type playsuit is most practical.